



## **The statement of the conference of "Iran's support for the Armenian occupiers in Karabakh"**

As the national liberation movement in the South Azerbaijan becomes stronger, the Persian regime of Iran, which came to power by an overthrow in 1925 and established a country based on Persian nationalism, strengthens its provocative activities and sabotages towards the Republic of Azerbaijan (Northern Azerbaijan), and thus stands in one row with Armenia, which in turn was mediated by Russia to occupy our lands. While the statehood in the Republic of Azerbaijan becomes stronger, the Iranian regime does not anymore hides its policy towards invader Armenia.

Nagorno-Karabakh, the region which is historical lands of Azerbaijan is shown as an independent entity in the maps published in Iran. Furthermore, by establishing free passages to and from the occupied lands of Azerbaijan, Iran exploits those areas jointly with Armenia. Thus, instead of remaining neutral to the conflict, Iran through abovementioned and other illegal activities in the region becomes already a second country actively involved in the occupation of the lands of Azerbaijan. Iran also constructed several car and cargo bridges over the Aras River, linking occupied Jabrayil region with Iran, which helped the latter to access the region through those corridors and de-facto to append some areas to itself. These processes created new conditions from the perspective of law and by this way much more internationalized the fact of occupation of the lands of Azerbaijan. The construction of before mentioned bridges has been kept in secret till these days.

Besides, Iran built a water reservoir near the Khodaafarin Bridge, which is located on the Aras River. The construction left some village areas, old cemeteries of Jabrayil and Zangilan, as well as ancestral homes of Azerbaijani population under water. The railway along the river and Baku-Zangilan highway has also been lost under water. Iran has in fact annexed some parts of the territories of Azerbaijan and destroyed the infrastructure in those areas together with Armenia. Some time ago, the government of Azerbaijan strongly protested against the construction of water reservoir, after which building activities have stopped for a while, but later Iran has reached its hostile intentions and goals against the Republic of Azerbaijan.

We also consider that the construction of five bridges linking Iran to Karabakh serves to military intentions of Iran, as there are precautions that if Azerbaijan starts military operations in order to free its lands, Iranian military forces will directly or indirectly

facilitate Armenian occupier forces in the southern front, which can be assessed as a proxy war against Azerbaijan. The facts of placement of some Iranian forces in Jabrayil region in order to so-called “protect” the abovementioned reservoir and barracks-like building sites near the Aras River also strengthen the probability of Iran's military intentions.

On behalf of the participants of the conference, we declare that Azerbaijan should not leave Iran's evil actions unanswered and should implement needed counter-measures to curb Iran in the region. Azerbaijan should take the mentioned violations of international law by Iran to the United Nations and International Court of Justice (Hague), so that illegal activities in occupied territories of Azerbaijan will severely stopped.

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